From: Cody Gubler <codygubler@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:56 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: To Members of the Washington State Building Code Council

Dear Member of the Washington State Building Code Council,

I live in Spokane, where temperatures fluctuate between 110°F and -10°F as with much of Central and Eastern Washington. Electric heat pumps become inefficient between 25 and 30 degrees, whereas natural gas furnaces maintain efficiency. This would require even more electricity than normal to compensate for the loss in efficiency; during a time of year where the electrical grid sees a variety of stresses from both internal and external sources.

We live in one of the best regions in the country when it comes to clean and renewable energy. Our local utility company supplies over 402,000 customers with electricity and 369,000 with natural gas. While 46% of our electrical generation capacity is produced using hydroelectricity, 34% is generated using natural gas.

Not only do they supply 369,000 with natural gas service, but they also generate 34% of our electricity from burning natural gas. By eliminating the option of natural gas appliances, there will be an increase in electrical generation using natural gas. The more restrictions on direct-to-consumer energy, the less efficient the energy delivery becomes.

There are losses in efficiency when you transport electricity and natural gas. You will have to move more natural gas to a generation facility to generate electricity and then you will have to move electricity back to the consumer. When you burn natural gas to create electricity, there are losses in efficiency. And again, electrical heat pumps lose efficiency during the most critical times compared to natural gas furnaces.

I do not believe restricting homeowners rights and choice to efficient, reliable, energy is the right choice. The guise that switching to electric appliances is more environmentally sound, more efficient, or the right choice for homeowners and developers, can be offset by the fact that it will be compensated by burning natural gas in a less efficient manner.

Thank you for your time.